

CLAIMS

1. A gateway system relaying a request from a user for a service provided by another system,
5 the gateway system characterized by comprising:

an authentication unit which receives the request and authenticates the user;

20 a service request unit which makes the request on behalf of the user based on a result of an authentication by said authentication unit, using link information and authentication information corresponding to the requested service; and

25 an information link unit which incorporates link information concerning the gateway system into link information included in returned data corresponding to the request.

30 2. The gateway system as claimed in claim 1, characterized by having a plurality of systems each including said authentication unit, said service request unit, and said information link unit, the systems being provided in a hierarchical structure.

35 3. The gateway system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that:

said service request unit comprises a table in which accessible service information retained by the user is entered, and makes the
30 request for a service on behalf of the user when the service is accessible to the user.

4. The gateway system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that:

35 said service request unit comprises a table in which an option ID serving as a billing unit is entered in correspondence to the system

providing the service, and transmits the option ID in making the request.

5 5. The gateway system as claimed in claim
1 1, characterized in that:

 said information link unit converts the
link information included in the returned data into
the link information concerning the gateway system,
the link information included in the returned data
10 being included in control information set in the
returned data, the control information including
access information of the user to a WWW server.

15 6. The gateway system as claimed in claim
2, characterized in that:

 said information link unit converts the
link information included in the returned data into
the link information concerning the gateway system,
the link information included in the returned data
20 being included in control information set in the
returned data, the control information including
access information of the user to a WWW server.

25 7. The gateway system as claimed in claim
3, characterized in that:

 said information link unit converts the
link information included in the returned data into
the link information concerning the gateway system,
the link information included in the returned data
30 being included in control information set in the
returned data, the control information including
access information of the user to a WWW server.

35 8. The gateway system as claimed in claim
4, characterized in that:

 said information link unit converts the
link information included in the returned data into

the link information concerning the gateway system,
the link information included in the returned data
being included in control information set in the
returned data, the control information including
5 access information of the user to a WWW server.

9. A computer-readable recording medium
comprising:

a program which causes a computer to
10 execute the steps of:

(a) authenticating a user upon receiving a
request for a service from the user;

(b) making the request on behalf of the
user based on a result of authenticating the user,
15 using link information and authentication
information corresponding to the requested service;
and

(c) incorporating link information
concerning a gateway system into link information
20 included in returned data corresponding to the
request.

10. The computer-readable recording
medium as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that:
25 said step (b) comprises a table in which
accessible service information retained by the user
is entered, and makes the request for a service on
behalf of the user when the service is accessible to
the user.

11. The computer-readable recording
medium as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that:
said step (b) comprises a table in which
an option ID serving as a billing unit is entered in
35 correspondence to a system providing the service,
and transmits the option ID in making the request.

12. The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that:

5 said step (c) converts the link information included in the returned data into the link information concerning the gateway system, the link information included in the returned data being included in control information set in the returned data, the control information including access information of the user to a WWW server.

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13. The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that:

15 said step (c) converts the link information included in the returned data into the link information concerning the gateway system, the link information included in the returned data being included in control information set in the returned data, the control information including access information of the user to a WWW server.

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14. The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that:

25 said step (c) converts the link information included in the returned data into the link information concerning the gateway system, the link information included in the returned data being included in control information set in the returned data, the control information including access information of the user to a WWW server.

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